

Bogotá D.C. y Medellín, 1 de mayo de 2021

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Acting Executive Secretary **María Claudia Pulido**
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Ref. Alert for massive human rights violations committed
by state agents in the framework of the National Strike in
Colombia

Ladies and gentlemen Inter-American Commission of Human Rights:

The undersigned platforms, social, environmental, trade union and human rights organizations and individuals, are writing to you, in order to send information on the human rights violations that have taken place since April 28, 2021 in the national territory. in the context of social protests in Colombia. We come to you with the purpose that you urgently address the Colombian State to adopt measures to protect life, personal integrity, personal freedom, due process, freedom of expression, freedom of association, right of assembly, right to freedom of participation and other fundamental rights recognized in the American Convention on Human Rights, which are at serious risk due to acts of stigmatization, police violence, detentions, attacks, and arbitrary prosecutions committed by authorities of the Executive branch, the public force, and the judiciary.

In this sense, it is important to highlight that, through Resolution 001/20, the IACHR identified that, within the framework of the health emergency of COVID19, "the exercise of the right to social protest prevails by citizens, in a context of repression through the disproportionate use of force ". Resolution in which recommendations were also made to the States regarding the proportionality and necessity of the restrictions on human rights. A similar position was adopted by the Inter-American Court in its Declaration 1/20, where it stated that within the framework of social protest "[t] he care must be taken that the use of force to implement the measures of

containment on the part of the officials in charge of the fulfillment of the law is adjusted to the principles of absolute necessity, proportionality and precaution according to the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court ¹ . These recommendations have not been complied with by the State, which is why we require your urgent intervention.

I. CONTEXT ELEMENTS

As a result of the government announcement of a new regressive tax reform project, social, trade union, peasant, human rights organizations and the general public called for a national strike to take place as of April 28 of this year. This call took place in a context of general dissatisfaction with the government's mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the increase in poverty, unemployment and, in general, the deterioration of the health and living conditions of the population.

From the moment of the call, government authorities tried to dissuade citizens through stigmatizing speeches not to hold the protests called. Additionally, for the signatory organizations, it is very worrying that public personalities use social networks to promote stigmatization, criminalization and even more serious, the justification of armed violence against protesters. This situation was evidenced by a tweet published by former president Alvaro Uribe Vélez, which stated:

"Let us support the right of soldiers and police to use their weapons to defend their integrity and to defend people and property from the criminal action of vandalism terrorism"² .

The serious human rights violations listed below have been repetitive and constant to the point that in September 2020, the Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice recognized through a guardianship decision that the police violence was systematic and ordered a series of measures among them, the order to the Minister of Defense to publicly apologize, the order to the authorities to maintain discursive neutrality in the face of protests, the concerted adoption of a Protocol limiting the use of police force³ .

¹ I / A Court HR. Declaration of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights 1/20. COVID-19 and Human Rights: The problems and challenges must be approached with a Human Rights perspective and respecting international obligations. 29 de abril de 2020, p. 2.

² This trill was removed from the twitter platform for "glorification of violent acts" and incitement to violence. Time. [Twitter eliminates trill from former President Uribe on the use of weapons](#). Saturday, May 1, 2021.

³ In its decision, the Supreme Court of Justice stated: "There are shortcomings and inability in the institutions in charge of maintaining internal public order, to use, in a rational and moderate way, the arms of the Republic, to the point that they generate a well-founded fear for those who wish to demonstrate peacefully." Supreme Court of Justice, STC7641-2020, September 22, 2020

As we reported at the time to the H. Commission and later we expanded the hearing on the human rights situation held in December 2020, between September 9 and 10, 10 young people (between 17 and 25 years old) were murdered by the National Police in Bogotá, the capital of the country, and 3 more in the municipality of Soacha. In the same two days, 300 people were injured, 77 of them with a firearm⁴. As indicated at the time, the judicial investigations have not been effective and several facts are known to the military criminal jurisdiction.

Among the constants are: i) the stigmatization of the protest; ii) the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of the police force against protesters; iii) the abuse of police figures as "transfer for protection" against citizens, iv) illegal and arbitrary searches, v) arbitrary prosecutions and vi) intervention of the National Army in protest scenarios.

II. VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDED DURING THE DAYS OF PROTEST

According to figures from the "Campaign to Defend Freedom Matter of All", which groups together different human rights organizations in an effort to monitor and ensure human rights in social protests, between April 28 and 30, 2021, recorded, at least, the following violations⁵:

1. The Colombian National Police **injured 105 people**, of these, 6 suffered eye injuries and 4 were hit by firearms.
2. Between April 28 and 30, within the framework of social protests, the death of 4 people was recorded; 3 in Cali and 1 in Neiva. A figure that increased considerably at the end of April 30. Human rights organizations, in their reports, have denounced that only in Cali, 14 homicides are investigated. Of these 7 have been verified and another 7 are in the process of verification.
3. On April 28, **286 people were detained** in the cities of Bogotá, Cali, Yopal, Neiva, Ibagué, Pasto, Villavicencio and Barranquilla. Only

⁴ Time. Cases of excessive police in Bogotá in protests, September 14, 2020. Consulted in: <https://bit.ly/3nD3ngO>. Taken from: Defend Freedom Campaign, Hearing before the IACHR, December 2020

⁵Newsletter 4: National strike. Defend Freedom Campaign. Available in: <https://defenderlalibertad.com/boletin-informativo-4-paronacional/>

In Medellín, 159 arbitrary arrests were registered, finding that the transfer for "protection" was an instrumentalized mechanism to carry out massive and arbitrary arrests. According to reports from social organizations in Antioquia, at least 92 people were held under this legal figure.

4. Similarly, on April 28, 2021, in Medellín alone, there were **226 attacks** against protesters, human rights defenders and press groups. On April 29, the national police attacked 6 human rights defenders in the city of Medellín, who were beaten with serious injuries as a result.
5. Within the framework of the April 28 demonstrations, the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation carried out **9 raids and captured 14 young people** in Bogotá, Cali and Ibagué. In various irregularities to the fundamental rights of the captured and the parties, therefore, the arrests and the raids were declared illegal by the guarantee control judge⁶. The Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, through public statements and press conferences, through Francisco Barbosa and the press office of the prosecutor's office, identified the captured persons as members of clandestine movements⁷ and held them responsible for acts of vandalism that occurred in September 2020⁸. In violation of the principle of innocence, these slanderous statements have been replicated by the media with national coverage, who have accused young people of being terrorists, thus putting their integrity at serious risk.
6. On April 30, in the case of the 14 youths and the 9 raids, some youths were persecuted and followed by members of the national police, although the prosecutor assigned to their case has stated that there are no arrest warrants. or current follow-up against any of the 14 youths.

⁶<https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/bogota/ieua-deio-libre-a-14-senalados-de-terrorismo-en-april-28-marches/>

⁷Office of the Attorney General of the Nation. [Presumed members of clandestine movements that They would be involved in vandalism in Bogotá and other regions. 14 captured, 4 of them they would have traveled to Cali, apparently, to coordinate the elaboration of explosive devices to be used in mobilizations](#)

⁸ Tweet del 30 de abril de 2021.

⁸The Spectator. ["What they have done is a crime against life": prosecutor Barbosa on National Strike 28A". Wednesday, April 28, 2021.](#)

7. During the protests, at least **32 physical attacks** on human rights defenders were reported by the National Police.
8. In addition to the deprivation of liberty, there is the perpetration of torture against those who participated in the demonstrations or were passing through its surroundings. Beatings, threats, and electric shocks were indiscriminately and brutally inflicted by the police, producing open wounds and serious contusions to the victims, as well as attacks against women due to their sexuality and gender status.
9. On April 30, in the vicinity of Santiago Park, in the city of Pasto Nariño, human rights defenders Nahomi Bravo of the Human Rights Committee of the University of Nariño, Diana Martínez, Martha Ceballos of the MURÚ Foundation, Dilcia were arbitrarily detained. Benítez from Mujeres Nariñenses por la Paz and Javier Dorado from CPDH-NARIÑO, being transferred in a police truck to the Obrero neighborhood coliseum, where later, after complaints and pressure from Human Rights organizations, they were released; The illegal retention of at least 150 people was also recorded in said coliseum, including several minors.
10. The journalists who have covered the protests have also been the target of police aggression and the obstruction of their work by the agents, theft and the destruction of means to record the events such as cell phones and cameras, attempts deprivation of liberty and threats against his integrity.
11. Similarly, in social networks two acts of sexual violence have been reported, one in the municipality of Soacha (Cundinamarca) against a young Afro-descendant, which occurred on April 28 and another committed on April 30 in Cali, Valle, against a protester . Both were allegedly committed by members of the ESMAD Mobile Anti-riot Squad. In the city of Medellín, a young woman who was referred for evaluation of legal medicine for the attacks suffered, was subjected to sexual assault by the forensic doctor.

Social and human rights organizations have insistently denounced that the procedures established in Colombian law were not followed in the detentions, which is why the detentions were mostly illegal, even more than 10 prosecution attempts were declared illegal by judges controlling guarantees . An example of this was the

case of citizen Edwin Daniel Zambrano, arbitrarily detained on April 28, 2021 in Bogotá and attended by the Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Collective (CAJAR), in which a judge ordered an investigation of the police officers for committing an arbitrary detention, omitting the duty of investigation and attempting to deceive judges and prosecutors by issuing biased reports. Similarly, during the hearings it was noted that the arrests were made based on stigmatization, since the debate reported a raid on 14 young people at 6 in the morning based on an informant who only gave addresses that were contrasted with the cadastre. and for the sole fact that the addresses coincided with the information supplied, the 14 search operations were carried out. It is also highlighted that during the capture processes, having a scarf from an indigenous council or a banner from Colombia Humana was taken into account as material evidence, which is a clear stigmatization. In this same sense, there is no chain of custody of said evidence seized during the arrest.

In this context, we also place special emphasis on the arrests of Juan David Rodríguez Monroy and Daniel Alejandro Fraile Monroy, who were detained together on April 28 by the National Police in Bogotá and denied their whereabouts for more than 6 hours by police officers. assigned to the Puente Aranda URI, despite the fact that a lawyer from the Colombian Commission of Jurists traveled to that place to meet with their clients, however, they refused to interview the young people, since, according to police officials, The boys were not in that place and indicated that they were in the antiterrorism unit, since it was the unit in charge of the operation. It is important to emphasize that the CCJ attorney had the power of attorney granted by their mothers.

The young Rodríguez and Fraile were held incommunicado for more than 12 hours, thus preventing their right to communicate with the trusted defender and their families. Also, on April 29 their lawyers were able to find them and communicate with the young people, who had been tortured and mistreated. Given the number of irregularities and human rights violations, a guarantee control judge ruled that the capture procedures were illegal.

We express our special concern about the intervention of the National Army in protest scenarios. Thus, the use of National Army personnel armed with rifles has been warned at the concentration points of the demonstrations, as occurred in eastern Antioquia, in the municipality of Bello (Antioquia) and in Cali, a city in which the Ministry of Defense recognized to have

sent 300 soldiers⁹. In a radio address, the Minister of the Interior presented this participation of the Army in the protest as a necessity¹⁰. Despite the fact that the constitutional functions of the Army are limited to the defense of national sovereignty, in the same speech, it announced the possibility of militarization of several cities.

Finally, regarding the situation that occurred, we would like to refer to some virtual spaces that can be consulted to expand the information contained here:

- <https://twitter.com/coljuristas/status/1387563540219895811?s=21>
- <https://colectivodeabogados.org/pedimos-que-la-fiscalia-investigar-el-caso-de-gareth-seals-as-part-of-macro-case-on-eye-lesions/>
- https://www.tiktok.com/@prensacajar/video/6955984967906118917?lang=en&is_copy_url=1&is_from_webapp=v1
- <https://twitter.com/DefenderLiberta> / <https://defenderlalibertad.com/>
- <https://twitter.com/CSPP/status/1388508657671942145?s=20>

III. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CALI AND PASTO

In addition to the aforementioned situation, the signatory organizations here warn about what happened and is happening in cities such as Cali and Pasto, where at least the following have been identified:

- On April 28, two minors, ages thirteen and sixteen, were assassinated, who were allegedly shot by National Police patrols.
- On April 29, the death of 17-year-old Marcelo Agredo was recorded at a point known as Puerto Rellena, in Cali.
- In addition, at least 26 human rights defenders were arbitrarily detained as part of their defense exercise, some of them had their vests and identification taken from them, one of them reported having been tortured inside a National Police patrol¹¹.
- At the Coliseo las Américas, located on Carrera 12 in the city of Cali, the mobile patrol No. 27-1384 arrived, from which between 15 to 20 boys who were detained descended, minutes later the Patrol 27-3344 arrived,

⁹Ministry of Defense, Twitter account @mindefensa, April 29, 2021. Available in: <https://bit.ly/3ugdfzK>

¹⁰RCN Radio. Interview with Minister of the Interior, Daniel Palacios April 29, 2021

¹¹Public statement (National urgent action). Congress of the Republic of Colombia. (Anexo 1)

where another 8 detained men descend. Likewise, in Las Banderas Park, 3 people were arrested and taken to the Lido Police Station. However, they went to said police station and they reported that the detained persons were not transferred to said station, but to the Las Américas Coliseum. Once there, the information received was that they were not in that place either.¹² .

- On April 30, 2021, at least four homicide victims were registered, presumably due to the actions of the police and seven more deaths, which occurred in the Calipso, El Diamante, Sindical and El Paso del Comercio neighborhoods, east of the city of Cali. Among those killed are: Einer Alexander Lazo, pensioner of the National Police, Jovita Osorio, a child teacher, Daniel Felipe Azcárate, Julia Navarrete and Rosemberg Douglas.
- The presence of the Special Security Task Forces - GOES, who allegedly opened fire on the civilian population, is also reported.
- On April 30 at night, the vehicles in which human rights defenders from the Solidarity Committee with Political Prisoners and the Campaign to defend freedom were attacked with firearms: everyone's business, organizations who have been monitoring, verifying, reporting and providing legal assistance to those who exercise their rights within the framework of social protest.
- This attack on life and physical integrity occurred after coincidentally, the public electricity service was suspended in the city of Cali and after participating in a press conference in which they denounced the serious human rights violations that occurred in department A the height of the Santa Librada school, the driver of the first occupied vehicle in which the defenders were moving and the defenders were forced to reduce their speed because they were pointed with a green laser at the face, later they were shot from the bridge that is located located a few meters ahead. According to local residents, just after the electricity service was suspended, several armed men dressed in black shot at protesters and residents of the sectors where protests were taking place.

¹²Communiqué "Cali in the hands of the public force, National Strike 29A" (Annex 2)

In the event that an extension of the information reported here is obtained, it will be communicated later. Likewise, we remain attentive if any of this information needs to be expanded.

IV. SOLICITUDES

We request the Honorable Inter-American Commission, within the framework of its function of promoting and protecting human rights in the continent, to address the Colombian State to demand from its authorities:

1. Unrestricted respect for the right to social protest and the guarantees so that it can develop freely.
2. The suspension of the use of the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad ESMAD in peaceful demonstrations.
3. The eradication of any strategy of militarization and war to treat social protest.
4. The abstention from stigmatizing and criminalizing speeches against social protest and protesters.
5. The investigation in the ordinary jurisdiction, with standards of due diligence and impartiality, of the serious human rights violations reported.

We also request that the Coordination and Timely and Integrated Response Room (SACROI) for Colombia be activated and an urgent meeting be convened with organizations and networks of Colombian civil society that sign this communication.

With feelings of consideration and esteem,

Alliance of Social and Related Organizations

1. Colombia Soy Yo Association - ASY
2. Victims for Peace and Development Association, Asvipad
3. Association of Victims and Survivors of Nordeste Antioqueño, Asovisna
4. Democracy Today Association
5. National Association of Workers and Public Servants of Health and Integral Social Security and Complementary Services of Colombia, ANTHOC
6. Association for Alternative Social Promotion MINGA
7. Defend Freedom Campaign: All Business
8. Affirmative Caribbean
9. Women's House

10. Central Unitary of Workers - CUT
11. City in Motion
12. José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Collective - CAJAR
13. Collective of Colombian Exiles / Refugees in Ecuador CERCE
14. Popular Legal Collective
15. Colectivo Migrantes y Exiliadxs Colombianxs por la Paz MECoPa
16. Collective Weaving Memories
17. Colombian Commission of Jurists - CCJ
18. Commission on Guarantees and Human Rights Social and Political Coordination
Patriotic March
19. Interchurch Commission for Justice and Peace
20. Integration Committee of the Colombian Massif CIMA NARIÑO
21. Committee of Solidarity with Political Prisoners - CSPP
22. Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights - CPDH
23. Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Antioquia Héctor Abad
Gómez
24. Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Valle del Cauca
25. Regional Corporation for the Defense of Human Rights of Barrancabermeja
CREDHOS
26. Confederation of Colombian Workers - CTC
27. Confederation of Colombian Workers - CTC, Bucaramanga Section
28. National Afro-Colombian Peace Council-CONPA
29. Buenaventura Women District Advisory
30. Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement - CODHES
31. Coordination Colombia Europe United States - CEEEU
32. Pacific Regional Coordination
33. Corporation for Humanitarian Action for Coexistence and Peace in Northeast
Antioquia CAHUCOPANA
34. ÁGORA Club Corporation
35. Claretian Corporation Norman Pérez Bello
36. Colombian Theater Corporation
37. Citizen Corporation
38. Corporación Humanas-Regional Center for Human Rights and Gender Justice
39. Liberty Legal Corporation -CJL-
40. Yira Castro Legal Corporation - CJYC
41. Corporation organizing doing and thinking the Pacific CORHAPEP
42. Corporation Restart
43. Sembrar Corporation
44. Sisma Woman Corporation
45. Social Corporation for Community Counseling and Training COSPACC
46. Long Live Citizenship Corporation
47. Yuruparí Corporation
48. Crude Transparent
49. Enda Colombia

50. Colombian Federation of Education Workers, FECODE
51. National Federation of Workers of the Graphic Arts, Paper and Related Arts Industry - Fenalgrap
52. Fundación BAKIA Defenders of the Dignity of Peoples. DD.HH
53. Steps Human Rights Foundation
54. South West and Colombian Massif Foundation FUNDESUMA
55. Development and Peace Foundation- FUNDEPAZ
56. Guagua Foundation
57. Ties of Dignity Foundation
58. Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation
59. Faces and Footprints of Human Feeling Foundation - Garífuna
60. Social Foundation for productivity
61. Vision Pacific Foundation "VP"
62. Sons and Daughters for memory and against impunity
63. Humanidad Vigencia Corporación Jurídica - HVCJ
64. Latin American Institute for an Alternative Society and Law - ILSA
65. International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network - ILAW
66. Justice R Collective Racial Justice
67. Roundtable on human rights and humanitarian assistance in eastern Antioquia
68. Territorial Table of Guarantees of Chocó
69. MOVICE Madrid Chapter
70. Xuacha MEXU student movement
71. National Movement of State Crimes - MOVICE
72. Observatory for peace Valle del Cauca
73. Organization of Colombian Refugees in Chile-OCORCH
74. Periphery
75. Planet Peace
76. Colombian Platform for Human Rights, Democracy and Development - PCDHDD
77. Race and Equality
78. Rakas Bikepolo Human Rights
79. ConPaz Network # SomosGénesis
80. Network Against Abuse of Authority
81. Human Rights Network of the Southwest Colombian "Francisco Isaías Cifuentes"
82. Network of Colombian Victims for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean REVICPAZ-LAC
83. Departmental Network of Chocoan Women
84. Feminist Legal Network
85. Red Red and Violet
86. District University Network for Human Rights
87. Redepaz
88. Humanitarian and Biodiverse Resguardo Union Agua Clara Indigenous Community, Río Bajo San Juan - Buenaventura - Valle del Cauca
89. Humanitarian and Biodiverse Resguardos Santa Rosa de Guayacán

90. National Union of Agrifood System Workers - Sinaltrainal
91. Sintrabrinks
92. Sintraincolbest
93. Open Workshop
94. NGO tremors
95. UNI- Americas
96. Union of Citizens of Colombia Cali Section
97. Maipore Environmental and Social Veeduría

And the following people:

Gloria Flórez Schneider (human rights defender), Daniel García Peña, Cesar López (musician), Laura Gil, Fredy Socarras, José Noé Ríos, Arlene Tickner, Carlos Satizabal, Hugo Buitrago, members of the Defend Peace Movement;

Santiago TresPalacios (lawyer); Edith Carrillo Amaya; Luz Adriana Peláez González, Juan José Zapata Valencia; Mauricio E. Giraldo Mejía; Andrés Jiménez, Zoraida Hernández (lawyer and human rights defender)



NATIONAL URGENT ACTION

The undersigned congressmen and women express our concern about the serious situation of violence and violation of human rights that the country is going through today, especially the Valle del Cauca region and the city of Cali after the events that occurred since last April 28.

Facts

- As of yesterday, April 30, according to social organizations, trade unions and human rights defenders, they report at least four victims of homicide, presumably due to the actions of the police and seven more deaths, which occurred in the Calipso, El Diamante, Sindical and El Paso neighborhoods. of the commerce, to the east of the city of Cali.
- Likewise, since April 28, more than 286 detentions have been reported, most of them arbitrary, at least 105 people injured, 6 of them with eye injuries, 4 impacted by firearms and at least 8 actions of police violence.
- Among those killed are: Einer Alexander Lazo, pensioner of the National Police, Jovita Osorio, a child teacher, Daniel Felipe Azcárate, Julia Navarrete and Rosenberg Duglas.
- The presence of the Special Security Task Forces - GOES, who allegedly opened fire on the civilian population, is also reported.
- On April 29, the death of 17-year-old Marcelo Agredo was recorded at a point known as Puerto Rellena, in Cali.
- On April 28, two minors of the age of thirteen and sixteen were assassinated, who were allegedly shot by National Police patrols.
- In addition, at least 26 human rights defenders were arbitrarily detained as part of their defense exercise, some of them had their vests and identification taken from them, one of them reported having been tortured inside a National Police patrol .

Given the serious events and preventing the demonstrations that will take place today, May 1:

- We urge the National Government and the military and police authorities to adopt the necessary measures within the framework of a National Urgent Action that guarantee citizens to exercise the rights to free expression and peaceful demonstration, respecting the duties and limits of the servers in the Control of demonstrations and the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. We urge the National Government to cease its campaign of stigmatization and discrediting of social protest, as ordered by the Supreme Court of Justice in Sentence STC 7641 of 2020.
- We denounce before the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation so that the facts mentioned here are investigated and that those responsible for the human rights violations are punished, especially, of the seven deaths reported so far, which occurred in the framework of the social protest .

They sign:



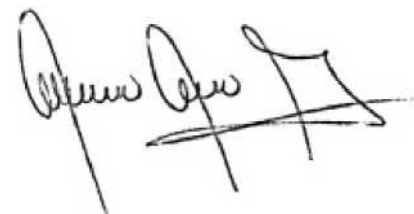
ANGELA MARÍA ROBLEDO GÓMEZ
Representative to the House

who today are outraged at the reforms proposed by President Iván Duque and the Ministers of Finance Alberto Carrasquilla and of Health Fernando Ruiz.

- The rights to mobilization and peaceful protest in Colombia must be guaranteed by the National Government. We demand respect for the life and integrity of social leaders, student, union, community and community leaders and citizens

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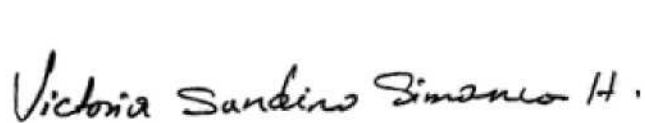
WILSON ARIAS CASTILLO Senator of the Republic



ALEXANDER LOPEZ MAYA
Senator of the Republic

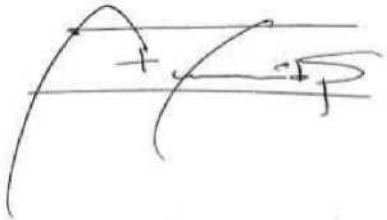


GUSTAVO BOLÍVAR MORENO
Senator of the Republic



VICTORIA SANDINO SIMANCA
Senator of the Republic

IVÁN CEPEDA CASTRO
Senator of the Republic



ANTONIO SANGUINO PÁEZ
Senator of the Republic



JUAN LUIS CASTRO CÓRDOBA
Senator of the Republic



**MARÍA JOSÉ PIZARRO
RODRÍGUEZ** Representative to
the House



DAVID RACERO MAYORCA
Representative to the
House



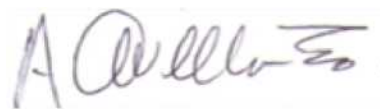
IVÁN MARULANDA Senator of the Republic



JULIÁN GALLO Senator of the
Republic



**ABEL DAVID JARAMILLO
LARGO** Representative to the
House



AÍDA AVELLA ESQUIVEL
Senator of the Republic



JORGE ENRIQUE ROBLEDO
Senator of the Republic



**JORGE
ALBERTO
GÓMEZ**
Representative to the
House



**JORGE EDUARDO LONDONO
ULLOA** Senator of the Republic



SOS

CALI IN THE HANDS OF THE PUBLIC FORCE NATIONAL STOP 29A MASSIVE DETENTIONS OF DETENTIONS AT THE MEETING POINTS AND DISINFORMATION IN FRONT OF THE PARADISE OF THE DETAINED

April 29, 2021 Cali

- Valle del Cauca

In the framework of the great National Strike against the policies of the government of IVAN DUQUE MÁRQUEZ that violates the fundamental rights of the Colombian population, especially the right to live with dignity, since it seeks the approval of a Tax Reform that affects the minimum vital of the population and is regressive for economic, social and cultural rights. Adding the disastrous government policies approved during the Covid-19 pandemic that, contrary to safeguarding the right to health of the population, has subjected it to the impoverishment of sectors, territories and communities. Leaving, in turn, confinement to be a ready stage for the spread of war and the presence of the Public Force in the territories that has directly affected the autonomy of ethnic and peasant peoples.

The signatory human rights organizations reject all the measures implemented by the national and local government. Today, April 29, we denounce that the public forces are carrying out massive arrests of the protesters and there is no clear and concise information regarding the whereabouts of several of the detainees, considering this as a serious risk for the disappearance of said people and the violation of the integrity and rights of those who are illegally deprived of their liberty.

FACTS:

29 DE ABRIL

1. The Caleña community rises up in a continuous mobilization exercise, there are attacks by the Public Force and the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad - ESMAD against the citizens in the points of Sameco and Andrés Sanín, making excessive use of force, attacking citizens and Human Rights defenders with direct threats to their lives, naming them as guerrillas and thus justifying repressive treatment.
2. There is a strong ESMAD presence at the Puerto Resistencia meeting point, where the community has been meeting peacefully since the morning hours. At that point, two young men were arrested and taken to the URI.
3. At the Parque de las Banderas Meeting Point, at 12:50 pm, 3 people were arrested. Captain Fernando Ortega, reported that the detainees would be transferred to the nearest Police Station,



which is the Lido Police Station, where a subpoena would be imposed or their capture will be legalized, the captured are transferred in a patrol No. 27-3055.

The Human Rights defenders go to the Lido station to verify the procedure and the agent who attends them, informs them that the detainees were not transferred to said station, but to the Las Américas Coliseum, a place temporarily enabled by the police to have the detained. This situation generates confusion and misinformation, thereby increasing the risk of disappearance and / or violation of the rights of detainees. Human Rights Defenders and Lawyers go to the Coliseo las Américas, located at Carrera 12 No. 36-84, to search for the detainees and inform them that they are not there.

At the moment in which the detainees are transferred from the Pan-American Cai, the representative authority for the area, was present and stated that the rights of all those captured who passed through the CAI were guaranteed, in the face of this fact, we held commander Fernando Ortega and the municipal authority in the event of a possible violation of human rights or a disappearance of the people who were detained. This situation is reported to the Cali Security Secretary Carlos Rojas and the Ministry of the Interior.

4. The Human Rights defenders are at the LIDO police station with relatives of people who were detained at the Cosmocentro meeting point, among whom are several minors about whom the police officers do not provide any information. , so far not knowing the whereabouts and fate of the detainees, thereby generating an illegal procedure. This situation generates confusion and misinformation, thereby increasing the risk of detainees disappearing.
5. Human Rights Defenders and Lawyers, show that in the Coliseo las Américas, located in Carrera 12 No. 3684, the mobile patrol No. 27-1384 arrives, from which between 15 and 20 boys who were detained descended, those who were Without masks and without keeping any biosecurity conditions, minutes after Patrol 27-3344, another 8 detained men descend.

This situation is reported to the Secretary of Security Carlos Rojas and the Ministry of the Interior

SOLICITUDES:

We call on national and international organizations to follow up on the serious human rights violations that are taking place today. Likewise, WE DEMAND the Public Ministry, the Ombudsman's Office, the Attorney General's Office and other human rights oversight bodies to make reports on the situations reported in different parts of the city and to follow up on them.

Sign

NOMADESC ASSOCIATION
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 PEOPLES CONGRESS
 INTERCULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF PEOPLES
 ASOCIACIÓN CAMPESINA AGROECOLOGICA - ASOAGROS CNA
 WOMEN AND MEN OF TRIANA



**ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE WOMEN CORTERAS DE LA CAÑA NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL COORDINATOR - CNA SINTRAUNICOL SUBDIRECTIVA VALLE
DEL CAUCA PALENQUE REGIONAL EL CONGAL**

We request to direct communications to:

IVÁN DUQUE MÁRQUEZ

REPUBLIC PRESIDENT

Carrera 8 No. 7 -26 Palacio de Nariño Bogotá.

Fax. 5662071 www.presidencia.gov.co

DIEGO MOLANO

MINISTRO DE DEFENSA

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DANIEL PALACIOS MARTINEZ MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE Carrera

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With copy to:

MARÍA CLAUDIA PULIDO

ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS - IACHR

MICHELLE BACHELET JERIA

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

LUIS ALMAGRO- GENERAL SECRETARY ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN

STATES - OAS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - SECRETARIAT LONDON

JOSÉ MIGUEL VIVANCO - DIRECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.